

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9555

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0119

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FI, AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLA CONFERENCE STAGED BY WORLD PEACE COUNCIL

REF: HELSINKI 0092 (NOTAL), HELSINKI 0056 (NOTAL),

HELSINKI 0047 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. SUMMARY: COMMUNIST-FRONT WORLD PEACE COUNCIL OPENED
ITS CAMPAIGN FOR INCREASED RECOGNITION OF MPLA GOVERNMENT

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IN ANGOLA BY HOLDING CONFERENCE IN HELSINKI JANUARY 16-18

FEATURING MPLA "FOREIGN MINISTER" JOSE DOS SANTOS. DESPITE RELATIVELY MODEST MEDIA TREATMENT DOS SANTOS' VISIT HAS INTENSIFIED FINNISH DOMESTIC DEBATE ON ANGOLA AND INCREASED PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT TO RE-EXAMINE ITS POSITION THAT CONDITIONS FOR FINNISH RECOGNITION DO NOT YET EXIST. END SUMMARY.

2. WITHOUT ANY ADVANCE BUILD-UP HELSINKI-BASED COMMUNIST-FRONT WORLD PEACE COUNCIL (WPC) OPENED JANUARY 16 THREE-DAY CONFERENCE DEVOTED TO ANGOLA. WPC CLAIMS ATTENDANCE FROM 38 COUNTRIES. FEATURE ATTRACTION IN FINLANDIA HALL (SITE OF LAST SUMMER'S CSCE) WAS JOSE EDUARDO DOS SANTOS, FOREIGN MINISTER OF MPLA GOVERNMENT IN LUANDA.

3. CONFERENCE OPENED WITH DECISION TO AWARD WPC'S HIGHEST HONOR -- THE JOLIOT-CURIE MEDAL -- TO MPLA LEADER AGOSTINHO NETO. WPC ALSO SENT TELEGRAM OF SUPPORT TO MPLA AND ANNOUNCED IT WAS STARTING A WORLD-WIDE CAMPAIGN OF SUPPORT FOR MPLA AND ITS GOVERNMENT. WPC LEADERSHIP WAS RECEIVED JANUARY 16 BY FINNISH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN (PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF MPLA DELEGATION) WHO DISCUSSED WORLD SITUATION AND CSCE. KEKKONEN ALSO, ACCORDING TO COMMUNIST PRESS, WELCOMED CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS TO HELSINKI, WISHED THEM SUCCESS, AND THANKED THE WPC FOR ITS DEVOTED WORK ON BEHALF OF PEACE.

4. DOS SANTOS ADDRESSED CONFERENCE JANUARY 17, DESCRIBING SITUATION IN ANGOLA AND EMPHASIZING NEED FOR INCREASING SOLIDARITY AS WELL AS THANKING FOR PAST AID. SESSION ALSO ATTENDED BY FINNISH MEMBERS OF WPC LEADERSHIP: STALINIST COMMUNIST MP MIRJAM VIRE-TUOMINEN; CENTER PARS KALERVO SIIKALA, HEAD OF EDUCATION MINISTRY'S INTERNATIONAL DIVISION; AND ULF SUNDQVIST, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP) SECRETARY GENERAL. SUNDQVIST IN HIS SPEECH OF WELCOME STATED THAT SDP SUPPORTS THE MPLA AND ITS STRUGGLE FOR THE COUNTRY'S "INDEPENDENCE AND NEUTRALITY."

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DENCE AND NEUTRALITY."

5. PRESS COVERAGE RECEIVED BY DOS SANTOS' FOUR-MAN DELEGATION (WHICH INCLUDES AFONSO VAN DUNEM AND AMBROISE KUKOKI) HAS BEEN MODEST SO FAR WITH COMMUNISTS ONLY ONES GIVING IT FRONT-PAGE ATTENTION. DOS SANTOS WAS INTERVIEWED ON NATIONWIDE TV NEWS PROGRAM (AT WHICH HE WAS INTRODUCED AS THE FOREIGN MINISTER

OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA), AND JANUARY 19 PRESS CONFERENCE AND "SOLIDARITY RALLY" AND JANUARY 20 "COURTESY CALL" ON FOREIGN MINISTER SORSA MAY GENERATE FURTHER PUBLICITY.

6. IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS DOS SANTOS HAS DESCRIBED THE RECENT OAU CONFERENCE WHICH HE ATTENDED IN ADDIS ABABA AS POSITIVE FOR THE MPLA DESPITE INCONCLUSIVE RESULT AND FAILURE OF LUANDA GOVERNMENT TO BE GRANTED MEMBERSHIP. WITH ETHIOPIAN POST-CONFERENCE RECOGNITION HE EXPECTS OAU MEMBERSHIP TO COME SOON, AND WITH IT OAU MILITARY ASSISTANCE. THE MPLA'S LIBERATION GROUP DAYS ARE OVER, ACCORDING TO DOS SANTOS. IT IS NOW A SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENT ABLE TO REQUEST AND RECEIVE "ALL AID" TO REPEL INVASION. WE ALL KNOW, HE SAID, THAT RACIST SOUTH AFRICA AND AMERICAN IMPERIALISM ARE BEHIND THIS INVASION. HE WAS ESPECIALLY CONTEMPTUOUS OF ZAIRE AND ITS RECENT THREAT TO DECLARE WAR. ZAIRE HAS BEEN AT WAR FOR SOME TIME AND MPLA HAS CAPTURED ZAIREAN SOLDIERS TO PROVE IT. THREAT RESULTS FROM SEVERE LOSSES ZAIREANS ARE SUFFERING, DOS SANTOS SAID. WITH REGARD TO SOUTH AFRICANS DOS SANTOS CLAIMED 2-3,000 ARE ENGAGED IN ANGOLA USING MOST MODERN WEAPONS.

7. IN JANUARY 19 PRESS CONFERENCE DOS SANTOS ADDED LITTLE TO PREVIOUS STATEMENTS. WHEN PRESSED BY LOCAL UPI CORRESPONDENT AS TO WHETHER MPLA WOULD ASK CUBANS TO GO HOME IF AND WHEN THEY WIN THEIR STRUGGLE, HE REFUSED TO ANSWER DIRECTLY REPEATING OVER AND OVER "WE ARE A FREE AND INDEPENDENT NATION." DOS SANTOS ALSO SAID MPLA WOULD NOT ACCEPT UN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA UNTIL HIS GOVERNMENT "RECOGNIZED" BY UN.
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IM CONCURRENT WITH DOS SANTOS VISIT ANGOLA HAS BECOME ISSUE IN FINNISH INTERNAL POLITICAL DEBATE. THE COMMUNISTS CALL FOR IMMEDIATE FINNISH RECOGNITION AND THE DEMAND IS MOST VIGOROUSLY PUSHED BY THEIR YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS. ONE COMMUNIST YOUTH GROUP IN ITS STATEMENT CONDEMNS THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE USA AND ITS ALLIES. THE CHAIRMAN OF LIBERAL YOUTH ORGANIZATION, MP TERHI NIEMINEN, WHOSE PARTY IS ALSO REPRESENTED IN THE CURRENT COALITION GOVERNMENT, REFUSED THE LEFTISTS ON JANUARY 18. NIEMINEN LABELLED CALLS FOR RECOGNITION PREMATURE AND CONTRARY TO ESTABLISHED FINNISH POLICY. SHE SAID INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS WERE NEEDED FOR AN ANGOLAN CEASEFIRE. THE SAME DAY THE HELSINKI CONSERVATIVE NEWSPAPER IN ITS

EDITORIAL WARNED THAT IF THE WAR CONTINUES THE WORST IS YET TO COME -- REFERRING INTER ALIA TO FUTURE OF DETENTE POLICY. END UNCLASSIFIED.

9. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: FOREIGN MINISTRY CONFIRMS PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SORSA WILL RECEIVE DOS SANTOS JANUARY 20. MINISTRY OFFICIAL INGENUOUSLY NOTED THAT CALL WAS OF COURTESY NATURE ONLY SINCE DOS SANTOS "IS NOT VISITING FINLAND" BUT ATTENDING WPC CONFERENCE.

10. AS REPORTED REFTELS FINNISH GOVERNMENT DIFFERS WITH SOVIETS ON RECOGNITION OF MPLA AS GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA. IN MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR JANUARY 16 FOREIGN MINISTER SORSA ADMITTED TO AMBASSADOR THAT FINNS DISTURBED BY COMMUNIST INCLINATIONS OF MPLA. SORSA TOLD AMBASSADOR FINNS WOULD NOT SPEAK OUT PUBLICLY ON ANGOLA BECAUSE, BY TRADITION, IT STAYS OUT OF "GREAT POWER CONFLICTS". RESPONDING TO AMBASSADOR'S RESPONSE THAT WE EXPECT FINNS WOULD SPEAK UP IN SUCH FORA AS THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN DENMARK SORSA REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH SUBJECT WAS NOT ON AGENDA IT MIGHT WELL BE DISCUSSED IN CORRIDORS.

11. COMMENT: UNLESS SITUATION IN ANGOLA DETERIORATES FOR MPLA IN NEAR FUTURE WE EXPECT FINNISH GOVERNMENT, IN ITS PRESENT COMPLEXION -- INCLUDING COMMUNISTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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WILL COME UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE TO FIND RATIONALIZATION FOR RECOGNIZING MPLA GOVERNMENT -- AND MAY THEN UNFORTUNATELY SUCCUMB.
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Message Attributes

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